

II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus comprising:

- a compression sleeve ~~element: element;~~
- a first elongated member having a first portion that said compression sleeve element at least partially surrounds; and
- a larger elongated member having a second portion that said compression sleeve element at least partially surrounds.

wherein a third portion of said first elongated member is nested in at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member,

wherein said first portion is not nested in said larger elongated member, and

wherein said compression sleeve element has a first elongated member compression surface and a larger elongated member compression surface,

said apparatus further comprising:

~~—adapted to at least partially surround a first portion of a first elongated member and a second portion of a larger elongated member, wherein a~~

~~third portion of said first elongated member is nested in at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member, and~~

~~- having a first elongated member compression surface and a larger elongated member compression surface;~~

~~- a relative motion obstruction element adapted to prevent axial and rotational motion of said compression sleeve element relative to said larger elongated member, said relative motion obstruction element itself having at least one hole established in said larger elongated member and at least one projection projecting inwardly from said compression sleeve element and through said at least one hole; and~~

~~- a single levered clamp operable activatable to generate a compressive force that retains said first elongated member in a desired fixed position relative to said larger elongated member, said single levered clamp established around said compression sleeve element so that, upon activation of said single clamp, said single levered clamp forces:~~

~~- said larger elongated member compression surface against said larger elongated member, member, and~~

~~- said first elongated member compression surface towards a site on said first elongated member, and member that is not within said larger elongated member, and~~

~~-said at least one projection against a surface of said at least one third portion of said first elongated member.~~

~~- a relative motion obstruction element adapted to prevent axial and rotational motion of said compression sleeve element relative to said larger elongated member when said single clamp is unclamped but still around said compression sleeve element.~~

2. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said compression sleeve element is separated along at least one split from a first elongated member proximate edge of the compression sleeve element to a larger elongated member proximate edge of the compression sleeve element, wherein ~~said third portion of said first elongated member has a first longitudinal axis~~, said at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member has a ~~second~~ larger elongated member longitudinal ~~axis~~ axis, and wherein said compression sleeve element is perpendicularly displaceable and perpendicularly removable, relative to said ~~second~~ larger elongated member longitudinal axis, from said first elongated member and said larger elongated member upon ~~deactivation unclamping~~ of and effective disengagement of said single levered clamp.
3. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 2 wherein said at least one split is two splits.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said single levered clamp has an eccentric cam.
9. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said compression sleeve element is shaped to provide a clearance from said larger elongated ~~member~~ member, between said

first elongated member compression surface and said ~~larger elongated member compression surface, projection, to said compression sleeve element.~~

10. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said single levered clamp is at least partially integral with said compression sleeve element.
11. (previously presented) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said third portion of said first elongated member has an outer surface sized to fit substantially against an inner surface of said at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member.
12. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said compression sleeve element is radially displaceable and radially removable upon unclamping of and effective disengagement of said single clamp.
13. (previously presented) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein each said first elongated member and said larger elongated member is hollow.
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)

19. (withdrawn; previously presented) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 further comprising an annular gap filler.
20. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said larger elongated member compression surface directly contacts said larger elongated member and said first elongated member compression surface directly contacts said first elongated member, ~~each directly contact one of said elongated members~~.
21. (canceled)
22. (withdrawn; previously presented) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 further comprising a support apparatus of which said retention apparatus forms a part.
23. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention method comprising the steps of:
- establishing a compression sleeve element at least partially around a first portion of a first elongated member and a second portion of a larger elongated member; wherein a third portion of said first elongated member nests within at least a fourth portion of said larger elongated member; then
 - effectively engaging a single lever clamp around a compression sleeve element such that it may be subsequently activated so as to force a larger elongated member compression surface towards said larger elongated member and to force a first elongated member compression surface towards a site on said first elongated member that is not within said larger elongated member; then
 - preventing axial and rotational motion of said compression sleeve element relative to said larger elongated member by engaging at least one projection with at least one hole in said larger elongated member; then

- adjusting said first elongated member to a desired position relative to said larger elongated member; then
- activating said single lever clamp to:
 - force said larger elongated member compression surface towards said larger elongated member,
 - force said first elongated member compression surface towards said site on said first elongated member that is not within said larger elongated member, and
 - force said at least one projection against a surface of said at least one third portion of said first elongated member, and

~~retaining~~ - retaining said first elongated member in said desired position upon performing said step of activating said single lever clamp.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention method as described in claim 23 wherein said step of effectively engaging ~~a lever~~ said single clamp around said compression sleeve element comprises the step of effectively engaging a levered clamp having an eccentric cam.

31. (withdrawn; currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention method as described in claim 23 wherein said step of effectively engaging a clamp around said compression sleeve element comprises the step of threading a bolt into pin into a nut such that operation of said lever a lever of said levered clamp sufficiently retains said first elongated member in fixed position relative to said larger elongated member.

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said single levered clamp forces said first elongated

member compression surface against a surface on said first elongated member that is not nested within said larger elongated member.

43. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said first elongated member has a circular cross-section.

44. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said relative motion obstruction element is established on said compression sleeve element and said larger elongated member

45. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 44 wherein said relative motion obstruction element comprises at least one projection and at least one recess sized to accommodate said at least one projection, said at least one projection and said at least one recess established so that passage of said at least one projection into said at least one recess prevents said axial and rotational motion of said compression sleeve element relative to said larger elongated member.

46. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 45 wherein said at least one recess comprises at least one recess in said larger elongated member.

47. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 45 wherein said at least one recess comprises at least one hole.

48. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 47 wherein said at least one hole is through said larger elongated member.

49. (newly added) An adjustable telescoping member retention apparatus as described in claim 45 wherein said at least one projection comprises at least one projection projecting inwardly from said compression sleeve element.